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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Postal Censorship and the New State Security Law

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**SOURCE**

1. The following items of correspondence conducted by the East German Post Office Directorate concerning the "illegal distribution of newspapers" are\* translated below in full:

- a. Directive from the Postal Directorate to all Postmasters or their deputies:

Directorate of the Post Office  
\*VI A 1-2002-4<sup>00</sup>

Potsdam 6 June 1950  
\*HA 96

To the  
Postmasters or their Deputies

**Strictly Confidential**

### Illegal Newspaper Distribution

With reference to all confidential directives on the subject (2002.4, Illegal Newspaper Distribution) so far issued, the post offices are advised to exercise increased watchfulness. Recently more western publishers have resorted to sending their products into the German Democratic Republic through illegal channels. All the directives concerning this activity which have been issued are to be complied with, so that every attempt to smuggle in prohibited publications will be detected and punished. All measures taken are to be kept strictly confidential.

(By) Tows

- b. Letter of explanation from the Postal Directorate to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, Department I, Z, 2:

Directorate of the Post Office  
# VI A 1-2002-4

Potsdam, 19 June 1950  
\*HA 96

To the  
Ministry (For I Z 2)  
Berlin W 66

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Ref.: Directives\* I Z 2-2002-4 of 1 and 2 June 1950.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## Illegal Newspaper Distribution

The exact volume of sealed mail with illegal content which has been intercepted in accordance with Directive \*I Z 2-2002-4 of 16 May 1950 can not be reported. At present all mail which has the external appearance of being in any way inadmissible according to Directive \*I P 2-2460-0/1 of 4 April 1950 (L A 4-2002-1-v. of 8 April 1950) is transmitted to the Censorship Sections. Naturally, the post office personnel can not be blamed if a few scattered incoming items remain unchallenged. In a few cases, material which was passed to the censorship stations remained unprocessed. This material, therefore, is afterwards sent to the Chief of the Postal Directorate for transmittal to the Land-Police.

Printed matter and items inclosed in postal wrappers, etc., which contain prohibited matter, are sorted out by the post offices and passed to the local Peoples'-Police for transmittal to the Land-Police.

More far-reaching measures can not, it is believed, be taken here, unless the state security law which is in preparation directs the restriction of the secrecy of the mails.

Schwenk.

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